

Coins

A \$1 bill with a blue backside? Color it valueless

By Roger Boye

HERE ARE answers to more questions from readers:

Q—I have a 1963-A \$1 bill that has a blue backside. I would like to know if it was a misprint and if it would be worth anything. Also, I have several \$1 bills, series 1963-B, signed by Joseph W. Barr. I wonder if they are worth anything? They were plentiful a few years ago; now you hardly see them.—C.U., Brodhead, Wis.

A—Most likely your 1963-A bill came in contact with a chemical. The ink on the bill reacted with the chemical, producing a change in color. Such artificial “errors” caused outside the Bureau of Engraving and Printing have no collector value.

According to the “Hewitt-Donlon Catalog of U.S. Small Size Paper Money,” by Lee F. Hewitt and three other paper-money experts: “Without exception, every offcolor back or seal examined by the writer has been chemically treated to cause the change in color. Possibly this was done accidentally by certain detergents or acids, but more likely, intentionally.”

Your question about “Barr notes” is common. Joseph W. Barr was secretary of the Treasury from December, 1968, to January, 1969, in the last days of the Johnson administration. Dollar bills with Barr’s signature are not unusually valuable. Uncirculated 1963-B bills sell for \$2 or less in most coin shops. Dealers might pay you \$1.25 for an uncirculated specimen.

Bills that show wear [soiled or folded] from circulation are worth little, if anything, to a

collector [except, of course, \$1].

Q—I lost the clipping which had the address to order the \$5 Canadian mint sets. Would you give the address again?—R.L., Chicago.

A—The address is Coins Uncirculated, P. O. Box 470, Ottawa, Ont. K1N 8S5, Canada.

Incidentally, the price of the 1976 six-coin uncirculated set has been increased to \$5.15. The sets, which contains coins in denominations of 1, 5, 10, 25, 50 cents, and a dollar, is called proof-like because the coins are of superior quality to normal uncirculated coins.

The 1976 sets produced by the Royal Canadian Mint may be ordered through Oct. 31. Payment should accompany the order, and there is no limit on the number of sets.